



Open Space Committee

Date: Thurs, August 26, 2021

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Erin Moriarty, Emily Nink, David White

Absent: Teresa DeBenedictis, Brian Kelder, Wendy Richter

Guests: Eliza Hatch, Brian McBride

Minutes

1. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. The committee reviewed the meeting minutes dated from 5/27/2021, 6/24/2021, and 7/22/2021. Approved by all members present.

2. Committee introductions

- a. Ann introduced Erin Moriarty, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development, as interim liaison following Emily Sullivan's departure from Town.
- b. Eliza Hatch, meeting guest, introduced herself as interested in serving on the committee. She and her husband have recently moved to Arlington, and she is looking to get involved in the community. Her family has a history of working in open space.
- c. Brian McBride, meeting guest, introduced himself as interested in serving on the committee. He has lived in Arlington for about 20 years after growing up in Western Mass and has been very involved in the outdoors as a young adult and father. He is now nearing retirement and looking to give back to the community and get more involved.
- d. Ann walked the interested candidates through the process of applying to serve on the committee through the Town Manager's office, including an interview with the Town Manager, and a recommendation to the Select Board for endorsement.

3. Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2029 Update

- a. Ann and Erin shared feedback on the community survey, project schedule, and deliverables from a recent phone conversation with Krista and Lena at Horsley Witten, the plan's consultants. There have been over 670 responses to the survey thus far, although some demographics are lacking from survey respondents. The committee is encouraged to share the survey with younger friends and family members to widen the scope of responses. The responses

have been well-distributed from different parts of town, noting that the respondents are self-reporting their location.

Eliza Hatch offered to post the survey to a Facebook group for Arlington parents; Brian McBride offered to hand out materials at a park. Paper surveys are still allowed; committee members are welcome to drop paper surveys off at the DPCD office or enter the results online themselves.

- b. Next Steps for the Open Space Plan - There will be a forum to come in September or October. Draft Chapters 2-5 including the Introduction and the Environmental Conditions will be sent from Horsley Witten in the near future for review by the committee. Currently, consultants from Horsley Witten are working on maps to supplement the plan text. Eight maps are required by the Open Space and Recreation Plan template; however, Arlington's contract allows for two additional maps. The committee can review required maps once provided and request additional info for the remaining two maps.

Committee members expressed interest in engaging groups in Arlington such as ArlingtonEATS and the affordable housing tenants. Erin to help coordinate with some local groups and tenant's association.

- c. The committee members shared experiences of "listening posts" and were encouraged to schedule more outreach opportunities through September. Committee members are requested to take photos of engagement as it occurs to share with the consultants for inclusion in the plan.
- d. Committee members are encouraged to send email reminders to town groups, friends, and others on the contact list to participate in the survey and upcoming forum. Also, to continue regular updates to OSC website, Facebook, etc.

4. CPA/CDBG Projects

- a. Contracted work is still underway at Arlington Reservoir and Wellington Park. Construction at Wellington Park is slated to finish Fall 2021; Reservoir work is ongoing and will continue into the spring.

5. 40B comprehensive permit applications

- a. ZBA hearings on Thorndike Place (Mugar) continued to Thurs Sept 9. Questions and concerns are still being evaluated for this project.
- b. ZBA hearings on 1165R Mass Ave (Mirak) on Tues Aug 24 and Thurs Sept 2. This hearing is estimated to be nearing completion.

6. Other news

- a. The committee is encouraged to look for opportunities to submit an application for FY2023 CPA funding that would pursue committee goals.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 8:24PM

2021 Meeting Dates (usually 4th Thursday of the month but note exceptions):
September 23, October 28, November 11 and December 9 (due to holidays)